

Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendar NOW. On Sunday afternoon, May 4th, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will hold its semi-annual meeting. The agenda will include election of officers and several Va'ad members for the year beginning July 1, and discussion and a vote on whether the Congregation should adopt a policy on the Sanctuary issue. Details regarding candidates for office and the issues to be discussed will be mailed to all members prior to the meeting.

In addition, reports will be presented by the President, the Rabbi and the Treasurer, and we will adopt a budget for the next fiscal year. We will also hear from the committees on their activities and accomplishments.

All of these matters are of vital interest to each one of us as concerned members of this wonderful synagogue. Please come.

Seder is Sooner Than You Think!

April 19th is the deadline for reserving space at the Congregation's annual Second Night Seder. This always enjoyable event will be held on Thursday, April 24th at 6 pm at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (Van Ness Avenue between Pine and California, which is easily accessible by public transportation). All members, friends and relatives are invited to attend and participate in this, our eighth Congregational Seder.

Menu choices are listed on the enclosed form. The price for members is \$27.50, non-members \$32.50 and \$15 for all children under 10. If you are able to contribute more than the cost of the evening, we would be grateful. Your additional contributions enable us to offer subsidies to those who may need them. Please contact Treasurer Betty Kalis (221-2265) to talk about subsidies.

Send in your form *now*. If you need more information, contact the synagogue office (861-6932).

AIDS Education in the Jewish Community

Last November, the UAHC passed a strong AIDS resolution at its Los Angeles Biennial. In the months since then, several programs to educate and sensitize the Jewish community about the AIDS/ARC crisis have been started—both on national and local levels.

Specific UAHC programs will be formulated by the newly created UAHC Task Force on AIDS, to which Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Mike Rankin have been appointed. The task force will be meeting in New York on April 14-15.

In February, the National Jewish AIDS Project was founded to serve as a clearinghouse and advocacy group within the organized Jewish community. The goal of the project is to bring the crisis to the attention of the Jewish community and to channel Jewish community resources to help people who are ill and their families. A top priority is educating rabbis and other Jewish community professionals about the crisis and the needs of those

who are ill and their loved ones. Other goals for the Project include: mobilizing synagogue *bikkur cholim* committees to assist people with AIDS/ARC; involving the various Jewish civil rights and legal organizations in advocacy work on behalf of the needs of people with AIDS/ARC; and sensitizing Jewish social service agencies to the dimensions of the crisis. The Director of the Project is Daniel Najjar, a board member of our sibling congregation, Bet Mishpachah, in Washington, D.C. Rabbi Yoel Kahn attended the founding meeting of the Project and will serve on its Board of Directors.

In San Francisco, for the last several months the Jewish Emergency Assistance Network (JEAN) has been developing avenues through which the local Jewish community can help. A year-long educational effort is planned, aimed at rabbis and community professionals, synagogues and voluntary organizations (like Hadas-
(Continued on page 2)

Passover Workshop and Brunch

The Great Chefs of Sha'ar Zahav, led by Ron Moskowitz, are going to demonstrate the preparation of foods for your own Passover seder. This workshop is being presented by the Education Committee and the Cookbook Project on Sunday, April 13, from 11 to 3 pm. Even if you now prepare your own seder, you can learn some new recipes and methods. Four different *harosets*, a simple chicken soup, gefilte fish using readily available ingredients (it doesn't have to cost a lot and it can be easy with our contemporary kitchen tools), chopped chicken liver and homemade horseradish (it's easy and better—gasp) will all be presented. Also, a "sink or swim" demonstration by Gordon Osser is guaranteed to teach you to make the lightest matzoh balls this side of Hayward.

Of course the food is only part of it. Rabbi Kahn will lead a discussion on how to conduct your own seder, using the traditional Hagadah and emphasizing the most important points that should be included. And, yes, it is possible to liven up the lagging second half of the seder. How? Come, and find out.

Now is the time to make a reservation to have brunch, attend the Rabbi's discussion, see the chefs in action, and sample everything that is prepared. Space is limited to thirty participants. Call the Synagogue office (861-6932) or call Ed Tanovitz (482-4825) before April 6 to reserve a place. Bring the Hagadah you plan to use and a passover recipe to exchange. \$5.00 per person.

President's Column

Last month I wrote about one facet of Congregational/Rabbinic activity. This month I will deal with another: time. As many of you know, we have engaged Rabbi Kahn on a part-time basis, in a two-year agreement. Since last July, he has spent many, many hours serving our Congregational and individual needs. His *monthly* activities include at least: 5-6 committee/Va'ad meetings, 2 Shabbat services/sermons, teaching 8 classes, numerous hospital and home visits, 6 conversion students, requests for Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons, community/Rabbinic meetings and functions and individual counseling.

All of these activities are wonderfully beneficial to Sha'ar Zahav, but they add up to more than we agreed to, and we must make some changes. The Personnel Committee (Irene Ogus, Allan Gold and myself) has discussed this with Rabbi Kahn and agreed that some reductions are necessary. We will work on a continuing basis to enact appropriate reductions in time. Please be patient, it is our hope that we can expand to a full-time agreement at some future date. I ask for your understanding and support in our efforts to meet the Congregation's needs and provide a more realistic approach to our Rabbi's time.

* * *

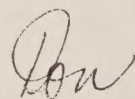
This is a time for me to thank so many of our members who have been contributing their time and talents to the richness of our synagogue's life. . . Mazel Tov to the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble who sang so beautifully at the Shabbat service which we shared with members of Congregation Sherith Israel and Temple Emanu-El. . . to Nancy Meyer and Allan Berenstein for a successful Tupperware party which raised

over \$300 for our treasury. . . to Ralph Frischman and David Gellman for their many hours of work in the renovation of the second floor. . . to Jim Proctor for his hard work in arranging for a wonderful education program about Israel. . . to Marion Trentman whose skills and love provided us with a new ark. . . and to Shirley Liberman and the entire Social Program Committee for Megillah Madness IV: an affair to remember.

* * *

Finally, I would like to outline how our Congregation will deal with the issue of Sanctuary for Central American refugees. The Social Action Committee will be recommending several proposals related to this issue. After review and comment by the Va'ad, the matter will be brought to the Congregational Meeting on May 4th. All members will receive advance copies of any proposal which is scheduled for a vote. I understand that this is a controversial issue, and we will have a very structured discussion and voting format. This will allow for fairness to all those with views to be expressed. I look forward to your participation.

Shalom & Happy Pesach,



New Ark Dedicated

On Friday, March 7th, Rabbi Kahn led us in a service of dedication for our new ark. The story of this new home for our Torahs began with the donation of a beautiful pair of antique leaded glass doors. They incorporate clear and frosted glass and each is highlighted by a ruby-colored Magen David. The doors were presented to the Congregation by our friend Jim Buchannan, in honor of our Past President Mike Rankin.

Next, Marion Trentman cleaned away many layers of old varnish to uncover the inlaid mahogany wood frames. An accomplished woodworker, she applied her talent to the task of building this new ark, choosing wood for the cabinet to match the original doors.

The dedication evening was enhanced by Betty Kalis who provided flowers and Mike Rankin who sponsored the oneg in honor of both Marion and Betty.

Education (Continued from page 1)

sah or B'nai Brith). Jewish Family and Children's Services has assigned a social worker to meet with people who may need the agency's services and has requested a grant from the Newhouse Fund to hire a social worker full-time to coordinate counseling and educational programs in the Jewish community. You can help by letting people know that JFCS assistance is available and by contacting the Jewish Community Endowment Fund (121 Steuart St., San Francisco 94105) to express your support of the grant application.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Richard Inlander, Irene Ogus, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Laurie Davis (photos); Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by Artspec Imaging Ltd.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-6594) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

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From Prague To Jerusalem: A Trip Through Jewish History

[The following is the second and final installment of a report by Mike Rankin on a recent JCF-sponsored trip. Last month, Mike took us through a discovery of Czechoslovakia; this month—the final leg of the journey, Israel.]

On Monday, we flew via Zurich to Tel Aviv. I've always thought that for a Jew, going to Israel for the first time is a little like falling in love for the first time. It's pure joy and a total high; all critical judgment is suspended.

This wasn't my first trip to Israel, it was my second, and it should have been different. It wasn't. Israel isn't perfect, and it surely has problems, big ones. But how I do love that little land!

You should know that a Federation Mission Tour is not two weeks in Miami Beach. Every waking minute was scheduled, usually from 8 am to 10 pm in the evening. We went everywhere and saw everyone—to the Golan and Masada and Jerusalem, to the Hebrew University, to a "development town" near the Lebanese border where Jews of the Bay Area have provided health, educational, and cultural facilities and programs for four years, and to a Gush Emunim kibbutz on the West Bank (or in Judea/Samaria, depending on your point of view). At the kibbutz, the leader asked us a simple question: "Do you feel at home in Israel?" "Of course!" we replied with great enthusiasm. "Then why don't you come home?" We were to hear this question over and over again. They simply cannot understand why the Jews of the Diaspora do not make aliyah, though being supreme pragmatists and realists they don't really expect it to happen, at least not now.

We tried to cover a cross section of Israeli opinion and life, and so we met with Israeli and Arab journalists, with fifth-generation Israelis and with those who had made aliyah in the past year or two. We spent time with liberal orthodox rabbi David Hartman whose Shalom Hartman Institute is bringing together all factions in the Jewish religious spectrum, and Christian theologians as well. They study together and learn together, and in the process develop mutual understanding and respect.

Having worked in the Jewish villages in Ethiopia in 1972-73, I was particularly anxious to see the Ethiopian Jews in Israel. I was hardly prepared for what I saw. In Ethiopia they were a proud people living

in abject poverty—malnourished, little or no access to health professionals or schools. Near Ma'alot is a boarding school for boys, mainly from Sephardic homes. A dozen or so Ethiopian Jewish boys now attend classes there during the week, and go home to their families on the weekends. These beautiful black kids were now bright-eyed, healthy, well dressed and clearly "making it!" I took a bag of gifts for them, and when a feisty six-year old took a look in my sack, he turned to his brother and said, "Vey iz mir—more chatchkes!" (Americans parade through there about twice a month I gather.) His brother, age 14, a year in Israel after a month-long walk from Ethiopia to the Sudan during "Operation Moses," asked me my name. When I told him, he sat down at the word processor (there were six in the classroom) and without asking how to spell it, typed "Michael." Then he made a beautiful graphic of it, and proudly stood back for me to admire it. Why do we need an Israel? Ask the kid with the computer.

There are still about 8,000 Jews in Ethiopia. They can't leave, but the J.D.C. is now able to bring a few supplies in to them. And of course, a trickle of Russians are still coming to Israel. One evening, we were to have dinner with several prominent refuseniks who had gotten out, including Joseph Mendelevich, who spent 11 years in jail in the Soviet Union for trying to escape, and Yuri Shtern, the head of the Soviet Jewry education and information center in Jerusalem. They spoke briefly, saying it would be a very bad idea

to reward the Soviets with sister-city status for Leningrad when Jews are still being harassed there. They applauded the San Francisco chapter of the Council on Soviet Jewry, which they considered a model of such efforts; but they were disappointed that so little Federation money is designated for the CSJ office.

We had invited them for dinner as well, but they had to leave for the airport to meet Ilya Essas, a leading Russian Jewish activist, who had just been granted a visa. Two days later we saw Essas as he came to the Wall for Kabblat Shabbat, his followers dancing and singing around him. None of us who saw his eyes at that moment will ever forget it. Why does there need to be an Israel? Ask the guy from Russia.

(Continued on page 9)

Workshop for Worried Well

The AIDS crisis has affected all of us in different ways. The emotional burden has been heavy even on those who are not themselves ill but have lost friends, are concerned about friends who have been diagnosed and are concerned about their own health. You are invited to an afternoon discussion of these concerns on Saturday, April 19, from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Synagogue. The program will be led by Bert Bloom, Outreach Coordinator at the Stop AIDS Project, and Rabbi Yoel Kahn. Please call the Synagogue office by Wednesday, April 16, if you plan on attending.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

(so she says!)

LYNN LAVNER

in concert

**A Benefit Performance for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Saturday, May 3rd, 8:30 pm at the Synagogue, 220 Danvers
Donation: \$5 Members, \$8 Non-members
(Refreshments will be served)**

COME EARLY—LIMITED SEATING



Homemakers All—Can you spot the winner?

The Plastic Party

Our Tupperware Party was held on March 2nd, in the community room and courtyard of Church Street Gardens, a delightful setting for such an elegant affair. The organizing committee decided that “period refreshments” were in order for this major cultural event and accordingly, the “food” served included such classics as pinwheel and cookie-cutter sandwiches, deviled eggs, tuna/macaroni salad, an assortment of Hostess cakes, a filled angel food cake, Velveeta/olive kebabs and the *pièce de resistance*: a towering Golden Glow Jello Mold Salad—all appropriately presented on heavily doiled silver platters.

As for the business of the day, following a presentation by our Tupperware Person, Tara Edel, a competition was held for Best Dressed Houseperson, with male and female entrants displaying remarkably varied interpretations of what a “BDH” looked like. Prime contenders for the title were Allan B. (appearing as our beloved Aunt Yente’s sister Sophie—who doesn’t get out much), David G. (he was maybe coming from a Hadassah meeting?) and Allan G. (the prim and professional but rather pregnant princess). So wonderful were the costumes that we could only select the winner by an applause meter! Allan G. was named CSZ Homemaker for

1986/5746.

And yes, Tupperware was ordered. Mark Mendelow was personally responsible for selling close to \$500 worth. The CSZ total was \$2300 in sales: a profit of \$320 for the Congregation.

Many thanks to the committee who brought us this classy affair: Allan Berenstein, Linda del Moral, Alex Ingersoll, Mark Mendelow, Nancy Meyer and Catherine Wisniewski. Thanks also to the denizens of Church Street Gardens for hosting and to Frank Hyman for pinch-baking at the last minute (or whatever one does to prepare Rice Krispie Marshmallow Treats).



ALL PHOTOS BY LAURIE DAVIS

Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met, as always, on the second Monday of the month (March 10), at 6:30 pm in the Oneg Room. In his D'var Torah, Rabbi Kahn commented that Purim is approaching, and that the month of Adar traditionally is viewed as bringing happiness—so let's be happy! The Board gave a hearty round of applause to Nancy Meyer & Co. for their fine work on the Tupperware party.

President Don Albert announced that Cheryl Orvis has resigned from the Va'ad, and the Board unanimously approved his recommendation that Past President Leila Raim fill that position for the balance of the term. The President's Report continued with a number of items relating to the many activities of the Congregation, including our representation at the UAHC conference on the changing family, and our assistance in matters of gay and lesbian sensitivity to the new Jewish Community Information & Referral Service of the Jewish Federation. The Va'ad unanimously adopted a philosophy of supporting our fine education program, in part, through the general fund.

In her Treasurer's report, Betty Kalis emphasized the problem of a projected deficit and noted that we must find an additional \$5,000 in revenue between now and June 30. Rabbi Yoel Kahn's incredibly full schedule was highlighted in his report on such matters as his recent trip to New York to help establish the National Jewish AIDS project, and his participation this month in the UAHC Task Force on AIDS. Mike Rankin, our UAHC representative, gave us an update on that organization's activities which relate to CSZ.

The Board continued its examination of the question of Sha'ar Zahav's proper role, if any, in the Sanctuary movement. The Social Action Committee, under the leadership of Ron Lezell, presented its proposals for the Va'ad's consideration. This important issue will be more fully discussed at the April meeting, and will be presented to the Congregation in May.

The Va'ad accepted the Newsletter Committee's recommendation that, due to increased postage, the subscription price for *The Forward* for non-members be increased to \$12 per year. A bargain at any price!

Social Program chair Shirley Liberman announced plans for an evening with Lynn Lavner—our fantastic Chanukah party entertainer—to be held at the Shul on May 3.

The balance of the meeting focused on such matters as progress reports on the Congregational Seder and on the continuing education program and lecture series.

This brief summary can only give you a taste of what your congregation's Va'ad meetings are about. Your participation is welcome. Please join us on the second Monday of April (the 14th). We usually finish by 9:30, so you'll still have time to do your income tax.

—Richard Inlander, Recorder

Remember

to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Sha'ar Zahav Funds

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the Congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund: underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the Congregation.

The Building Fund: mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund: cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund: contributions to social causes that the Synagogue wishes to lend support to—for example, aid to the Falashas, Soviet Jewry,

National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The Library Fund: development of a reference library for our Congregation.

The Phooey on AIDS Fund: assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and is also used to support AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund: underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: supports *tzedakah* and special needs in the Congregation and the community.

The Torah Fund: purchase of a new torah and adornments for our Congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in *The Forward*, and the person being honored also receives a card announcing the gift. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

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From the Rabbi

Matzah: To Eat or Not to Eat . . . ?

You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread—at the set time in the month of Aviv, for in it you went forth from Egypt. . .
[Exodus 23:15]

Passover has always been—and remains—my favorite holiday in the Jewish year. When asked about “missing” Christmas, I have never thought that Chanukah is an adequate substitute—but Passover certainly is! My preference is not just a personal one—the Exodus from Egypt is the critical turning point in the Torah’s view of history and, along with creation and Torah, the central symbol of the Jewish religious tradition. Passover occurs on the fifteenth day (which, in our lunar calendar, is always a full moon) of the first month—time itself, as it were, begins with the Exodus. The Passover celebration, in its most ancient roots, commemorates spring and the rebirth of life it brings. In later Jewish tradition, the Exodus from Egypt came to speak of the promise of future redemption: “We await a redemption more lasting, and more splendid, than any of the past.” In Hebrew, the Passover holiday has four names: *Chag Ha-Aviv*—the Festival of Spring; *Chag Ha-Matzot*—the Festival of Unleavened Bread; *Chag Ha-Pesach*—the Festival of Passover; *Z’man Cherutainu*—the Season of Our Freedom.

In every generation, each person should consider themselves as if they had been present and gone forth from Egypt.
[Passover Hagadah]

The tradition does not ask us to pretend that “we were there” but rather to think of ourselves *as if* we had participated. What is the difference? Whenever I watch

a historical reenactment, I always find myself as an observer, sitting on the side, peeking in. At the Seder, We do not pretend to be with our ancestors in Egypt; we do imagine the import of experiencing the Exodus. In Martin Buber’s words: “It is not a feast of pious remembrance, but of the ever-current contemporaneity of that which once befell. Every celebrating generation becomes united with the first generation and with all those that have followed.” The description of the degradation and slavery in Egypt is the best possible argument to the oft-asked question: “Is the Bible true?” What people would choose to fantasize about slavery in the past? The Torah and the Hagadah emphasize our people’s enslavement in order that we might appreciate the sweetness of freedom. The Seder’s ritual places symbols of slavery and freedom side-by-side: salt water and parsley; *maror* and matzah.

You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your ranks out the land of Egypt. . . No leaven shall be found in your houses for seven days. . .
[Exodus 12:17, 19]

There are two separate commandments regarding bread during Passover. There is an affirmative commandment—we are obligated to eat matzah at the Passover Seder. And, there is a prohibition against eating anything with leaven throughout the entire festival. There are many allegorical explanations of the prohibition of leaven during Passover. I believe that the commandment is intended to focus our attention on the matzah. At the Seder, the matzah is the central symbol—and the

(Continued on page 9)

A butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker?

Or possibly a therapist, accountant, painter or retailer?

If you wish to increase your business, consider placing an ad in *The Forward*.

For details, contact Jay Feinstein, 621-6594.

Yahrzeits

- 1 Geraldine Minsky Rankin, Mother of Mike Rankin
- 1 Gizella Weiss, Grandmother of Wendy Weiss
- 1 Luis Wilks, Father of Shelley Fernandez
- 6 Rebecca Nutes, Grandmother of Barry Siegel
- 9 Ward Schlichter, Grandfather of Bill Schlichter
- 10 Betty Litowich, Grandmother of Michael Lipson
- 12 Anna Harris, Grandmother of Allen Harris
- 14 Frank Blazewick, Nephew of Hannah Blazewick
- 14 (5 Nisan) Meyer Solove, Grandfather of Ora Prochovnick
- 17 (8 Nisan) Max Pechter, Father of Bernard Pechter
- 18 (9 Nisan) Bessie Landesman, Grandmother of Jonathan Goldman
- 19 (10 Nisan) Max Radetsky, Grandfather of Allan Berenstein
- 21 (12 Nisan) Brina Chudacoff, Grandmother of Gordon Osser
- 22 (13 Nisan) Pauline Kohlhagen Cahn, Mother of Isabel Fishman
- 24 (15 Nisan) Berle Glusberg, Father of Yoram Gal
- 24 (15 Nisan) Rebecca Glusberg, Mother of Yoram Gal
- 25 Irving Brill, Father of Leonard Brill
- 25 Carol Eberly Frantz, Sister-in-law of Rena Frantz
- 27 James Tishler, Friend of Howard Bobren
- 29 (20 Nisan) Josef Ha-Cohen Chesir, Grandfather of Daniel Chesir
- 30 Abraham Kaver, Grandfather of Allyce Kimerling
- 30 Jimmy Pearson, Friend of Daniel Chesir

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		21 Adar II 1 Education Comm 7pm Education Night 8 pm	22 2	23 3	24 4 Services 8:15pm	25 5
26 6 Brotherhood Bowl 3pm JapanTown	27 7 Membership Comm. 7:30pm 668-6269	28 8 Education Night and Siyyum 8 pm	29 9 Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am	1 Nisan 10 Newsletter Mtg. 1772 Sanchez 7pm	2 11 Services 8:15pm	3 12
4 13 Rosh Chodesh Seder Workshop/ Brunch 11-3pm	5 14 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	6 15	7 16	8 17	9 18 Services 8:15pm Seder Deadline	10 19 AIDS Sensitivity Workshop 4:30pm
11 20	12 21	13 22	14 23 Erev Pesach First Seder	15 24 First Day Passover Cong. Seder Golden Gateway Holiday Inn 6pm	16 25 Services 8:15pm	17 26 Morning Services 10:30am
18 27	19 28 Newsletter Mailing 7:30 pm 11 Grandview Terr.	20 29	21 30			

Ritual Calendar

Friday, April 4

Parshah: Shemini, Lev. 9:1-11:47

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

Mike Rankin

Friday, April 11

Parshah: Tazri'a, Lev. 12:1-13:59

Haftarah: 2 Kings 4:42-5:19

Leslie Bergson and Tiela Chalmers

Friday, April 18

Parshah: Metzora, Lev. 14:1-15:33

Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Daniel Chesir—Services

Rabbi Yoel Kahn—Sermon

Friday, April 25

Parshah: Exodus 33:12-34:26

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:37-37:14

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Saturday, April 26

Morning Services, 10:30 am

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

May Preview

Friday, May 2

Parshah: Aharei Mot, Lev. 16:1-18:30

Haftarah: Ezekiel 22:1-19

Garry Koenigsberg

Rosenstein May Lecturer

Holocaust survivor Jerry Rosenstein will speak at Sha'ar Zahav on Wednesday evening, May 7, at 7:30 pm to commemorate Yom Ha-Shoah. In addition to being a member of the Va'ad, Jerry is Vice President of the San Francisco Holocaust Library and speaks regularly before school and community groups. He will be speaking to the Congregation about his personal experiences during the Holocaust.

Birthdays

- 2 Victoria B.
- 6 Roberta W.
- 7 Judy Macks
- 7 Gordon Osser
- 12 Peter Abinanti
- 12 Gershon Lieberman
- 12 Terry Rothchild
- 13 Jay Cohen
- 14 Bruce Hansen
- 18 Ethan Inlander
- 19 Alita Rosenfeld
- 20 Bill Ashley-Dobbin
- 20 Leonard Brill
- 22 Barak G.
- 23 Eli Weinstein
- 27 Nanci Stern
- 28 Bob Berkowitz
- 29 Shirley Liberman

So Ask Aunt Yente

By coincidence, Aunt Yente's readers had four questions this month about the seder:

Dear Aunt Yente,

So what are all the laws and customs and traditions I have to follow to have a proper seder?

Willie Wies in Waikiki

Dear Ms. Wies,

How can you think Aunt Yente can cover all the traditions of the seder in one column? Her specialty—is there any question?—is being very what you could call maybe concise, or in other words trying to stay—you should pardon the expression—brief. So all the details of the seder she can't fit (but you can try the rabbi's seder workshop, which will explain everything from the simple basics up to the shape of the Tupperware to put *charoses* in); there are just too many of them. Once, in B'nei Barak, Aunt Yente had dinner with some friends and began discussing the details of the seder, and you shouldn't know how late they stayed up talking.

But the most important rule she will tell you now. A seder that only follows the routine is not a proper seder. Your seder is not complete unless everyone at the table does their own talking, their own explanations, their own questions and answers. Also food is *zehr* important.

Aunt Yente

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of February, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 14 Bill Ashley-Dobbin, in honor of Mike Rankin's birthday
- 21 David Kotch, in honor of Michael Erceg, on their 2nd anniversary
- 28 Linda del Moral, Nancy Meyer, Irene Ogus, Leila Raim, Sharyn Saslafsky, Nanci Stern and Catherine Wisniewski, in honor of Marilyn O'Keeffe's new job

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Dear Aunt Yente,

What does all this seder nonsense mean to you, anyway?

Wendy Wikit on Wawona

Dear Ms. Wickit,

To your Aunt Yente, freedom is very important, and worth making a fuss about. Also she doesn't pass up a chance to eat matzoh farfel. But you can't have any. (Matzoh farfel, Aunt Yente means. Even people who make fun of the seder have a right to be free. But you can go eat a hamburger on McMatzoh.)

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

How can I have a seder, when I understand so little of the ceremony?

S. Simon on Sansome

Dear Mr. Simon,

So most of us have only been to what Aunt Yente calls the Maxwell House seder (because they printed the hagadas), and so we think, *eppes*, if we don't do everything in that, we don't have a "real" seder. This is not right. There are many beautiful (and some not so beautiful) customs around the seder; also many people use the seder as an opportunity to fulfill *mitzvas* they sometimes overlook, like kid-dush, or lighting candles, or grace after meals. All this is wonderful, but no essential. The requirements of the seder itself are very simple:

On the table there must be matzoh, bitter herb, and something roasted (a bone, or possibly a potato or beet);

There must be an explanation—in English, according to the *halochah*, not Hebrew—of these three things (if you don't know, get help from Maxwell House or the

rabbi's workshop), and the matzoh and bitter herb you should eat;

The story of the Exodus must be told and discussed (just putting Charlton Heston on the VCR is not sufficient except for, *takke*, the very High Reform), and thanks given for our redemption.

That, *kinderlach*, is all there is to it, except for one thing Aunt Yente almost forgot (you didn't think she'd forget this, do you?): You must eat a wonderful and festive meal. (And that is why the Talmud absolutely forbids having seders in Ramada Inns.)

Aunt Yente

So those were the questions Aunt Yente received. But she promised four letters? *Takke*, it looks like the fourth letter writer didn't even know how to ask. This is all too common among Aunt Yente's readers. But really, it's very simple to So Ask Aunt Yente. Just a letter; you shouldn't try to be funny (that's her job); and you'll get an answer in the mail, or in the column; and both you and Aunt Yente will be happy.

Kinderlach: Have a wonderful and happy Paisich! (and remember please to help people who maybe can't afford to eat as well as you and your Aunt Yente this time of year.)

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1986 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in March. A warm welcome to our new members:

Michael Bettinger

Marilyn Braiger

Michael Allyn Khomanecki-Dzuikek

Sherie Koshover

Nancy Snow

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

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Free Consultation
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One can get a picture of life in Israel from meeting with "experts and spokes-people," and we certainly did that. But I think I learned more from two "non-experts" than from all the rest combined. The first was a 22-year-old Israeli Army lieutenant, a handsome redhead whom we met on the Golan, and who spoke with great feeling of his experiences in Lebanon. "Morale in the army is high," he told us, "but we pray for peace."

The second was Nissan, our bus driver, who was badly wounded in the Yom Kippur War. He recovered and is now working full time shepherding tour groups around the country. He listened to all our political debates on the bus without comment. But once I got him alone on the bus, I asked him what he thought about all of this. He had come from a country where Jews were badly treated by the Moslem majority, and he had been wounded by the Egyptians; but he wasn't bitter, and he understood the feelings of the other side. He was convinced the West Bank and Gaza should not be annexed, and he thought that as soon as Israel's security was assured, the occupation should end. Kahane he viewed as an American foreign body under the Israeli skin. His position was very close to the "Peace Now" movement, though I'd guess that would surprise both of them. With these two, Israel is in good hands.

Finally, gay life in Israel. Being gay in Israel is like being gay anywhere—it depends on the individual, on one's background, job, education, family, community and a host of other factors. There is no "gay outreach" synagogue in Israel, but there is a gay group called "Society for the Protection of Individual Rights," or the "Agudah." Its 300 members seek to promote better understanding in the general community, to provide peer support for gay men and lesbians who are "coming out," and to build linkages and help gay men and women find each other. They maintain a hot line, and offer consultation to various government agencies and to the military (an openly gay man or woman may serve in the military, but not in "sensitive positions").

They welcome visitors from abroad, and anyone who wants the name of a contact person in Israel should call the synagogue office.

There are two gay/lesbian bars in Tel Aviv. There are none in Jerusalem, but there are other places where gay people get together. I left with the impression that it's harder to be gay in Israel than in San Francisco, but easier than in Memphis or Des Moines.

There is much more to tell about the trip, but *The Forward* is not the *Sunday Times*, halavai. So go! See for yourself. Whatever the cost, you'll return infinitely richer for the experience.

—Mike Rankin

From the Rabbi

(Continued from page 6)

commandment to eat matzah is only to the Seder meal itself (as a reminder of the night of the Exodus). Through removing all other bread products from our homes for the duration of the holiday, the matzah's dual representation of past liberation and future passage is kept present before us: "This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the Land of Egypt. May all who are hungry come and eat! This year we still know bondage: next year may all be free!"

With best wishes for a festive, inspiring and liberating Passover,

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Future Dates

May 1986

Fri 2 Yom Hashoah
Sat 3 Lavner Concert
Sun 4 Congregational Meeting
Wed 7 Rosenstein Lecture
Tue 27 Lag B'Omer

June 1986

Sun 1 Lag B'Omer Picnic
Thu 12 Erev Shavuot
Fri 27 Officer Installation
Sun 29 Gay/Lesbian Parade

July 1986

Fri 11- Leadership Advance
Sun 13 Wildwood Ranch

August 1986

Sat 9- Gay Games II
Sun 17
Fri 29- Western Regional
Sun 31 Conference—Camp Swig

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

General Fund

David Gass in honor of Marilyn O'Keeffe's new job

AIDS Fund

Richard Inlander in memory of his friend Bob Dalterio

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Robert O'Neill & Charles Stuart in memory of Saul Pollack

Gordon Osser in appreciation of *The Forward*, and Aunt Yente's continuing Yiddish enlightenment

Gifts to the Congregation

A sterling silver Kiddish Cup was given by **Allan Berenstein**, in honor of the Congregation

Due to the recent departure of our Synagogue Administrator, the above is only a partial listing of this month's contributions.

September 1986

Sun 21 Castro Street Fair

October 1986

Fri 3 Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sat 4 Rosh Hashanah
Sun 12 Kol Nidre
Mon 13 Yom Kippur

Anniversaries

21 Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Don Albert
Vice President, Leslie Bergson
Treasurer, Betty Kalis
Recorder, Richard Inlander

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Alex Ingersoll
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Shirley Liberman
Irene Ogus
Leila Raim
Mike Rankin
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

The Synagogue Office is currently open Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, Paul Cohen
Finance, by committee
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, by committee

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.—check calendar for each month.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Passover Exhibit

The work of Frank Stella, Larry Rivers and nine other artists will be highlighted in a special exhibit at the Jewish Community Museum April 17 through May 10. Titled "Contemporary Reflections on Passover," the exhibition is designed to be an artistically comprehensive expression of the holiday. Among the works to be exhibited are prints, sculpture and photography.

Running concurrently with "Contemporary Reflections" is "Haggadah Treasures," an exhibition from the collection of Bay Area collector Norman Drachler of over 100 facsimile and original Hagadahs—some dating back to the 15th and 13th centuries—written in 15 languages from 55 communities in 25 countries.

Both exhibitions at the museum, 121 Steuart Street, San Francisco, are free to the public and open from 10 am until 4 pm every day except Saturdays and holidays. For more information, call 543-8880.



**China
Basin
Travel
Center**

185 Berry Street
#3, China Basin Bldg.
San Francisco, CA 94107

(415) 777-4747

Brother Bowlers Unite!

The Brotherhood bowls again... Men (members and friends) of Sha'ar Zahav join us on Sunday, April 6th at 3 pm for an afternoon of bowling, followed by pizza, beer and soft drinks.

Meet at JapanTown Bowl, corner of Post and Webster. Parking is free in the Japan-Center Garage, with validation. Don't worry about how good or bad you bowl, just plan on having some fun with other men from Sha'ar Zahav. Prizes will be awarded, but you'll have to be there to see what they are for.

Costs are \$7 per person which covers three games and shoes.

Classified Ads

ROOMATE WANTED: 31-year old Temple member w/AIDS seeks roommate for 2-bdrm apt w/backyard 4 blks from Temple. Prefer non-smoker, quiet, clean—possibly share meals. \$350/mo + util. Call Mark 431-2927 10am - 10 pm.

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
CONGREGATIONAL SEDER
RESERVATION FORM
Thursday, April 24th, 6 pm
Golden Gateway Holiday Inn
(Van Ness and Pine)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

_____ Members (at \$27.50 each)

_____ Non-members (at \$32.50 each)

_____ Children (at \$15.00 each)

as follows (indicate number of each):

_____ Kosher-style meals (chicken)

_____ Kosher-style meals (pot roast)

_____ Kosher Nutrition Project meals

_____ Vegetarian meals

In addition, I wish to donate \$_____ toward Seder subsidies.

☐ I request that signing for the hearing impaired be provided.

☐ My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge \$_____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Visa # _____ Exp. _____

MC # _____ Exp. _____

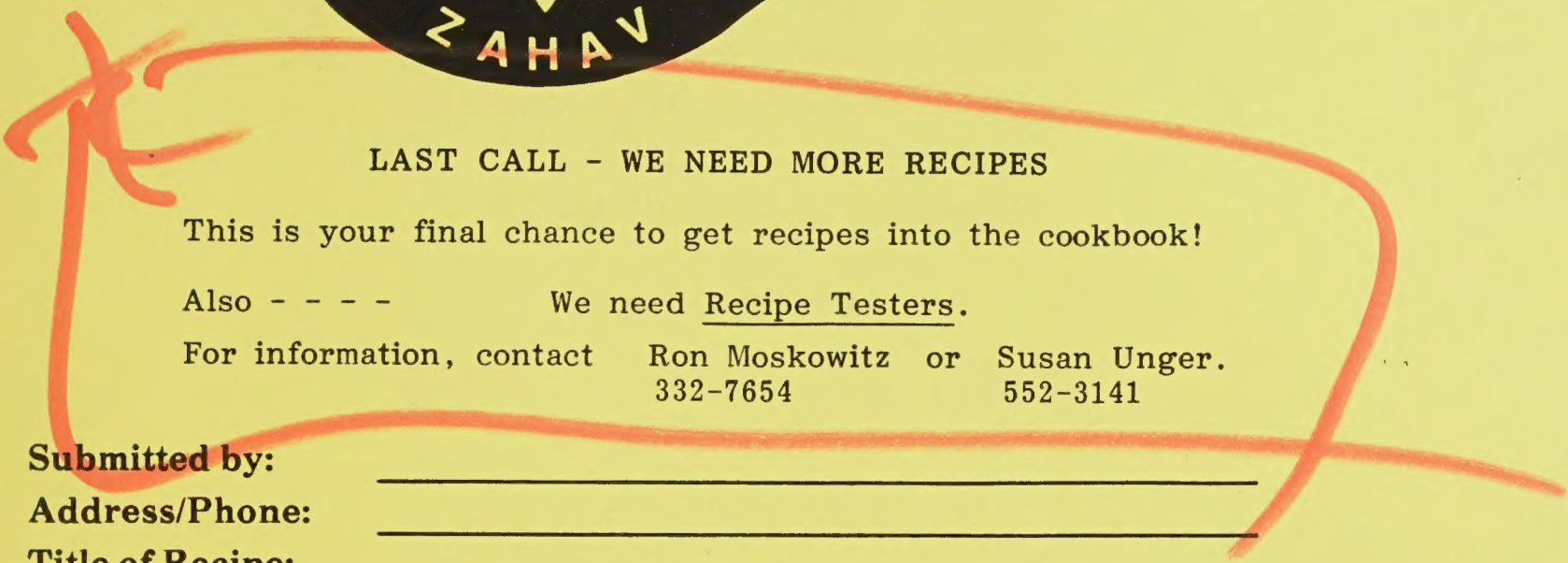
MC Interbank # (4 digits) _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Congregational Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114

All reservation forms must be received by Friday, April 18

Tickets will be held at the door under the name provided above.



For information, contact Ron Moskowitz or Susan Unger.
332-7654 552-3141

Title of Recipe:

Number of Servings:

[illegible]

CSZ Cookbook • 220 Danvers at Caselli • San Francisco, CA 94114

How to prepare:

If this recipe can be prepared ahead, cooked in a micro-wave, or frozen, please include directions.

What's the story behind this recipe?

Who? What? Where? When? Why? Why not? Anecdotes? Antidotes?.





Ahavat Shalom--San Francisco
Beth Chayim Chadashim--Los Angeles
Sha'ar Zahav--San Francisco
Tikvah Chadashah--Seattle

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**The First Western Regional Conference of Gay, Lesbian
and Bisexual Jews**

**to be held over Labor Day Weekend, August 29-31, 1986
at scenic Camp Swig in the majestic Santa Cruz Mountains
(50 miles south of San Francisco, in Saratoga, California)**

**Enjoy a relaxing atmosphere of warm camaraderie with other Gay, Lesbian
and Bisexual Jews and their friends**

**at a fun-filled weekend of workshops, recreation, folkdancing, outdoor
activities, worship, social events, good food and entertainment--
all in a mountain setting of superb vistas, clean air and redwood groves.**

**Registration Fee -- includes lodging, all workshops, activities
and meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch.**

\$87.50/person until June 30 -- \$97.50/person after July 1

The Conference is officially authorized by the World Congress of Gay & Lesbian Jewish Organizations

MAIL TO: Western Regional Conference
c/o Congregation Beth Chayim Chadashim
6000 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90035

Phone: (213) 931-7023

Please send me more information and a registration packet (type or print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Space is limited -- Registration is encouraged by May 15, 1986.

